Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of~~ for preparing a ~~RecA-like recombinase/single-stranded~~ RecA/single-stranded nucleic acid probe complex, the method comprising reacting a single-stranded nucleic acid probe sample containing a homologous probe with ~~a RecA-like recombinase~~ RecA in the presence of ~~a nonhydrolyzable nucleotide co-factor~~ ATPγS, wherein the number of ATPγS molecules ~~of which~~ is one quarter or more ~~of~~ than the number of molecules of nucleotide residues in the single-stranded nucleic acid probe and ~~10~~ 5 times or less than the number of RecA molecules ~~of the RecA-like recombinase~~.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the homologous probe is at least two types of homologous probes that are sufficiently complementary to one another.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded nucleic acid probe sample is a mixture of the homologous probe and at least one type of heterologous probe.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded nucleic acid probe sample is reacted with ~~the RecA-like recombinase~~ RecA in the presence of 0.5 to 2.0 mM magnesium ions.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the RecA-like recombinase~~ RecA is derived from a prokaryote.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the RecA-like recombinase~~ RecA is derived from *Escherichia coli*.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the RecA-like recombinase~~ RecA has a label or a ligand.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the homologous probe has a label or a ligand.

10.-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the label or ligand is biotin or digoxigenin.

14.-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the number of nonhydrolyzable nucleotide cofactor molecules is three times or less than the number of ~~RecA-like recombinase~~ RecA molecules.